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A device for tensioning a flexible member relative to a structure comprising:

a body for engaging a support member;

said body supporting at least one tensioner, said tensioner rotationally supported by said body;

said tensioner having an axis of rotation extending longitudinally of said tensioner and extending through said support member;

said tensioner comprising at least one end;

said end comprising a ratchet having a plurality of engaging surfaces extending outwardly from said axis of rotation;

a depression formed within and surrounded by said at least one end of said tensioner for rotation of said tensioner, said depression formed and dimensioned to accept a driving member inserted therein to rotate said tensioner;

a pawl having an axis extending the length of said pawl and having a plane surface on one end thereof, said plane surface perpendicular to said axis, said pawl supported on said body and pivotally mounted on said support structure and moveable to engage said plane surface thereof with one of said engaging surfaces of said ratchet, thereby blocking rotational movement of said tensioner in one direction;

said tensioner further having an elongated opening formed therein extending radially outwardly from said axis of rotation, said opening further being enlarged in width near the two ends and the middle of said elongated opening to accept a thickened region at the edges of and the middle of said web of said flexible member, when inserted into said opening;

each of said enlarged openings arranged parallel to the other of said openings;

said outer surface of said tensioner further comprising a plurality of channels each of said channels formed into said surface and circumscribing said tensioner, intersecting said enlarged openings;

whereby a flexible fencing member may be inserted into said opening in said tensioner and thickened portions of said flexible fencing member proximate each edge and said middle of

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said flexible fencing member are resident within said enlarged openings,

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thereby ensuring surface-to-surface engagement between said flexible fencing member and said opening in said tensioner and said plurality of channels formed in said surface of said tensioner, insuring a large engagement area with said fencing member when said flexible fencing member is engaged within and wrapped around said tensioner.

2. The device for tensioning a flexible member relative to said structure of Claim 1 wherein said pawl is biased toward a position wheren said pawl engaging end is blockingly engaged with said tensioner.
3. The device for tensioning a flexible member relative to said structure of Claim 1 wherein said body is unitary.
7. The device for tensioning a flexible member relative to a structure of Claim 2 wherein said bias is provided by a tension spring connected to said pawl and to said body.
8. The device for tensioning a flexible member relative to a structure of Claim 1 wherein said body supports a pair of tensioners for rotation.
9. The device for tensioning a flexible member relative to a structure of Claim 8 wherein said body is unitary.